

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
/051 W

-----015446 231334Z /40

R 231100Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5112
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1847

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, BA
SUBJECT: POLITICS AND RELIGION LEAD TO CLOSING OF TWO MAGAZINES

REF: MANAMA 1062

1. ARABIC DAILY PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 23 THAT BAHRAIN'S TWO MAJOR WEEKLY MAGAZINES, SADA AL-USBOU AND AL-MAWAKEF, HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED BY GOB FOR ONE MONTH DUE TO "RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES", PRESS TODAY SAID THAT DADA AL-USBOU HAD PUBLISHED AN ATTACK ON SHIITES AND AL-MAWAKEF HAD CONDEMNED SADA AL-USBOU FOR PUBLISHING THE ARTICLE.

2. LOOKED AT MORE CLOSELY, HOWEVER, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE AS MUCH OR MORE OF POLITICS AS OF RELIGION IN THIS INCIDENT. ARTICLE WHICH SADA AL-USBOU PUBLISHED MADE NO REFERENCE TO RELIGION BUT, RATHER, WAS ANOTHER ATTACK (SEE REFTEL) ON PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF MINISTER OF WORKS, A SHIITE, WHICH ALL BUT CALLED FOR HIS REPLACEMENT BY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, A SUNNI, WHO PRESENTLY IS ACTING MINISTER
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OF WORKS WHILE INCUMBENT ON HOLIDAY. AL-MAWAKEF'S RESPONSE BROUGHT RELIGION INTO THE PICTURE. NO MENTION OF COMPETENCE QUESTION WAS MADE IN PRESS STORIES WHICH ANNOUNCED CLOSING OF TWO WEEKLIES.

3. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THERE HAS BEEN MOVE HERE, AND SOME PRESSUREVFROM SAUDIES, TO REPLACE MINISTER OF WORKS AL-JISHI

BUT GOB WILL NOT WANT TO BE SEEN TO DO SO AS RESULT OF
PRESSURES FROM THE PRESS. IT WILL BE INTERESTING, THEREFORE,
TO SEE IF GOB PROCEEDS WITH PLANNED SEPTEMBER DISMISSAL OF
AL-JISHI. PERHAPS MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF THIS INCIDENT
IS GROWING AGGRESSIVENESS OF PRESS WHICH HAS BEEN VERY
TAME SINCE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED IN MID-1975.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGION, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, MAGAZINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAMA01847
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: MANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PINT, BA, AL-MAWAKEF, SADA AL-USBOU
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